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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 10/678,741 | 10/03/2003 | Hassan Mostafavi | VM 03-035-US | 6107 |
| 55499 | 7590 | 08/04/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| Vista IP Law Group (Varian) | | | RAMIREZ, JOHN FERNANDO | |
| 1885 Lundy Ave, Suite 108 | | | | |
| San Jose, CA 95131 | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3737 | |
| | | | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | | 08/04/2009 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/678,741 | MOSTAFAVI, HASSAN |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | JOHN F. RAMIREZ | 3737 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-32,50-67,75 and 80-91 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-32,50-67,75 and 80-91 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/25/09</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/28/09 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-32, 53-56, 66-67, 75, 80-91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epstein et al. (US5997883) in view of Wang (US 6,198,959).

With respect to claims 15-29, 84-85, Epstein disclose an NMR system and a computer (107) for generating one or more images having means for collecting data samples representative of a motion of an object (see Fig.1; col. 2, lines 49-55); means

for acquiring image data of at least a part of the object over a time interval (see Fig. 2, col. 2, lines 49-55); means for synchronizing the data samples and the image data to a common time base (col. 4, lines 23-57); means for generating one or more images based on the synchronized image data (col. 4, lines 58-65), wherein the means for generating is configured to generate an image using image data that are associated with a phase of the motion (see abstract, col. 4, lines 58-65), wherein the means for generating is configured to generate a first image using image data that are associated with a first phase of the motion, and a second image using image data that are associated with a second phase of the motion (col. 6, lines 42-67, col. 7 lines 1-22).

Epstein et al. disclose a generation of multiple slice images from conventional spin echo sequence data results in slice images representing the heart at different phases of the cardiac cycle. Epstein also describes methods for generating time-lapse (i.e., "cine") images by using short repetition times and retrospective data resorting to bin the data according to cardiac phase (see abstract, col. 3, lines 45-67). It appears that Epstein does not disclose collecting samples representative of a *breathing* motion object as argued by applicant. However, in the same field of endeavor, Wang discloses a magnetic resonance angiography using motion cardiac gated, in which images are acquired to measure motion during a cardiac cycle or respiratory cycle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teaching of Epstein and to use a system that acquires image data of a breathing motion object as taught by Wang for the purpose of tailoring the data acquisition to the

combined motion produced by the heart and respiration, resulting in better image quality results.

With respect to claims 1-14, 30-32, 50-56, 66-67, 75, 80-83 and 86-87, Epstein et al., in view of Wang teach all the structures as set forth above. The methods concerning their respective steps would be met by the disclosures as discussed above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN F. RAMIREZ whose telephone number is (571)272-8685. The examiner can normally be reached on (Mon-Fri) 7:00 - 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3737

/J. F. R./
Examiner, Art Unit 3737